TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 7, 1987 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 2 totaled an estimated 17.8 billion ton-miles, 7.9 percent above the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 18 weeks of 1987 was an estimated 303.2 billion ton-miles, up 0.5 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 2 totaled 402,443, up 4.5 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 3.5 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 4.0 percent in the East and 5.1 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 12 of the 21 major commodity groups increased. Grain showed a gain of 6,755 cars (38.9 percent), while chemicals and allied products increased by 2,530 cars (9.9 percent). Sixteen of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended April 25 totaled 96,304 trailers and/or containers, 0.1 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 17 weeks of the year was 1,622,134 trailers and/or containers, up 2.9 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/2/87:

	Loadings in Week ended May 2, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	24,129	I	6,755	38.9	D	1,362	5.3
Other farm products	3,830	I	772	25.2	I	228	6.3
Metallic ores	16,925	I	2,361	16.2	I	2,035	13.7
Coal	109,519	D	2,993	2.7	I	4,052	3.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	16,050	I	1,386	9.5	I	322	2.0
Nonmetallic minerals	10,088	D	576	5.4	D	56	0.6
Grain mill products	10,861	I	725	7.2	I	337	3.2
Food and kindred products	11,158	D	187	1.6	I	160	1.5
Primary forest products	10,982	I	968	9.7	D	45	0.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,906	I	407	4.8	I	241	2.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,777	D	327	2.5	I	133	1.1
Chemicals and allied products	28,041	I	2,530	9.9	D	265	0.9
Petroleum products	4,703	D	142	2.9	D	269	5.4
Stone, clay and glass products	11,274	I	311	2.8	I	324	3.0
Coke	5,194	D	27	0.5	I	25	0.5
Metals and products	10,038	I	574	6.1	I	1,005	11.1
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,004	D	1,053	4.8	I	2,134	11.3
Waste and scrap materials	8,632	I	345	4.2	I	522	6.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,732	D	524	16.1	I	181	7.1
All other carloads	75,503	I	6,098	8.8	I	4,047	5.7
LCL traffic	97	D	6	5.8	I	16	19.8
Total Cars Loaded	402,443	I	17,397	4.5	I	13,765	3.5
Corresponding week of 1986	385,046						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (18 weeks)	6,802,677	6,769,840	I 0.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
17 Weeks ended April 25	285.4	285.2	I 0.1
Week ended May 2	17.8	16.5	I 7.9
18 Weeks cumulative	303.2	301.7	I 0.5

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